

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a computing device having a microphone and a button, comprising the steps of:

activating said microphone;

receiving a user input on said button,

placing said device in an operating mode corresponding to a dictation mode when said user input is of a first type;

modifying the operating mode to place said device in a command mode when said user input is of a second type; wherein said device identifies spoken words as text in said dictation mode, and as commands in said command mode; and

providing an indication either visually or audibly to a user of said device as to whether said device is in said dictation mode or said command mode prior to identifying spoken words as text or commands,

wherein the user can enter a temporary mode, which is one of either a dictation mode or a command mode, different from the mode the user is currently presiding by pressing and holding down said button, where the user stays in the temporary mode for the duration the button is held down and exits the temporary mode upon releasing of the button, which causes the user to enter back into the current mode.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first type of user input actuating said button is a press and release of said button.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said second type of user input actuating said button is a press and hold of said button.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first type of user

input actuating said button is a tap of said button.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first type of user input actuating said button is a rotation of said button.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said button is a graphical user interface button.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said device is toggled between said dictation mode and said command mode if said button is actuated by pressing and releasing.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said device identifies spoken words while said button is actuated by pressing and holding.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said indication is provided on a display of said device.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said indication is provided by a lighting element of said device external to a display area.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said indication is provided as an audible signal.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said button has multiple states of depression, and said first and second types of user input actuating said button are first and second states of depression of said button.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of deactivating said microphone responsive to a manner in which said button is depressed.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of deactivating said microphone upon the expiration of a predetermined time period during which no spoken words are identified.

16. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

17. - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A personal computing device, comprising:

- a processor;
- a memory;
- a display, communicatively coupled to said processor;
- a microphone, communicatively coupled to said processor;
- a button, communicatively coupled to said processor;
- a speech-recognition program, stored in said memory, for causing said processor to recognize audible sounds detected by said microphone;
- a first program module, stored in said memory, for causing said processor to activate said microphone;
- a second program module, stored in said memory, for causing said processor to enter an operating mode corresponding to a command mode responsive to said button being pressed in a first manner and notifying a user either audibly or visually of entering said command mode; and

a third program module, stored in said memory, for causing said processor to modify the operating mode to correspond to a dictation mode responsive to said button being pressed in a second manner, and notifying a user either audibly or visually of entering said dictation mode, wherein spoken words recognized in said dictation mode are handled by said processor as textual data, and spoken words recognized in said command mode are handled by said processor as commands requiring execution of one or more additional functions,

wherein the user can enter a temporary mode, which is one of either a dictation mode or a command mode, different from the mode the user is currently presiding by pressing and holding down said button, where the user stays in the temporary mode for the duration the button is held down and exits the temporary mode upon releasing of the button, which causes the user to enter back into the current mode.

20. (Original) The device of claim 19, wherein said first speech-recognition program, first program module, second program module, and third program module, are all part of a single computer program.

21. (Original) The device of claim 19, wherein said second program module causes said processor to enter said command mode if said button is pressed and held.

22-35. (Canceled)

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein after a predetermined amount of time, if spoken words are not detected, the microphone is deactivated and the system exits the current mode.